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27 OCT 1958

The Honorable Ralph S. Roberts
Administrative Assistant Secretary
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Roberts,

The Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications of the U.S. Intelligence Board was established to assist the Director of Central Intelligence in the coordination of such procurement. The Procurement Committee consists of representatives of the intelligence community and other appropriate components of the U.S. Government. In the interests of assisting both Government and private research programs useful to Government, this Committee has sponsored or initiated programs to improve the collection of foreign publications. At its most recent meeting, the Committee endorsed unanimously the action proposed in this letter.

It is axiomatic that collection is of limited use when publications so collected are not known to have been received. They may have been already procured, in which case there is needless duplication; or, they may be in hiding, the well-kept secret of the individual who procured them, resting in some unused private repository. Our Government is spending large sums of money to announce the availability of foreign publications through the following, among others, well-known devices:

Library of Congress. Monthly Index of Russian Accessions.
Library of Congress. East European Accessions Index.
National Library of Medicine. Current List of Medical Literature.
Department of Agriculture. Bibliography of Agriculture.

These ventures are cooperative, in the sense that publications are reported as having been received by various libraries, and then indexed appropriately. We in CIA report all the foreign publications acquired, which we can report, to the Library of Congress. In addition, recent announcements of new

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programs by the National Science Foundation, Department of Commerce, inter alia, have stressed the importance of readily available translations of such publications.

We invite the active cooperation of each Federal Agency in this program. Specifically we urge each Department to ensure that its foreign publications acquisitions are well reported through available media. We suggest further that Government travellers report to their respective Government libraries all the foreign publications they acquire on official trips. An equally important consideration in this matter is the timeliness of such reporting, both by the individual and his library. Where the library does not have its own reporting medium, it should be urged to report its acquisitions to any of the libraries mentioned above.

Speaking on behalf of the intelligence community, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your cooperation. Intelligence is only as good as the facts on which it is based. Foreign publications play an important role in providing us with these facts.

Very truly yours,

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Acting Assistant Director
Chairman, Committee on Procurement
of
Foreign Publications

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22 October 1958